

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-33 were pending in the present patent application. By way of this reply, claims 7-9, 18-21, and 29-31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 12, and 23 are independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 12, and 23.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 12, 13, 17, 23, 24, 28, and 32 have been amended for clarification. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 4 and paragraphs [0026] - [0029] of the published specification.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledge and consider the references cited in the IDS submitted with this response.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-33 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-33 of co-pending Application No. 10/075,757. By way of this reply, claims 7-9, 18-21, and 29-31 have been cancelled without

prejudice or disclaimer and thus the rejection is moot as to those claims. As for the remaining claims, an appropriate terminal disclaimer is submitted with this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6, 12-17, and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,446,016 issued to Zhu (hereinafter “Zhu”), and in view of Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter “AAPA”). For the reasons set for the below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner admits Zhu does not teach or suggest “inputting a power supply waveform having noise.” (See Final Office Action dated March 2, 2006 at page 8). Accordingly, Zhu also does not and cannot teach or suggest “inputting a digitized power supply waveform having noise to a simulation of the delay locked loop, wherein the digitized power supply waveform is captured prior to starting the simulation,” as recited in amended independent claims 1, 12, and 23. The Examiner relies upon AAPA, specifically Figure 3 and paragraph [0024] of the published specification, to teach or suggest what Zhu lacks. (See Final Office Action dated March 2, 2006 at page 8). However, AAPA is silent regarding the limitations not disclosed by Zhu and thus does not cure what Zhu lacks.

AAPA discloses a delay lock loop (DLL) test arrangement (“simulation”), where the DLL power supply is modeled by summing a DC source with a square wave. (See AAPA at Figure 3, elements 153 and 154). On an initial note, those skilled in the art will appreciate the modeled power supply disclosed by AAPA is in the analog domain, squarely contradicting the digital requirements of amended independent claims 1, 12, and 23. Further, those skilled in the art will also appreciate there is no capturing of power supply waveforms prior to simulation of

the DLL. In fact, the DLL test arrangement creates the power supply waveforms in real time during the testing (“simulation”) of the DLL. This also squarely contradicts the limitations of amended independent claims 1, 12, and 23, which require capturing of the power supply before simulation commences. Thus, AAPA does not teach or suggest what Zhu lacks.

Zhu and AAPA, whether viewed separately or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every limitation of amended independent claims 1, 12, and 23. Thus, amended independent claims 1, 12, and 23 are patentable over Zhu and AAPA. Claims 2-6, 13-17, and 24-27 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 12, and 23 and are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-11, 18-22, and 29-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhu, in view of AAPA, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,678 issued to Culler (hereinafter “Culler”). By way of this reply, claims 7-9, 18-21, and 29-31 have been cancelled and thus the rejection is moot as to those claims. As for the remaining claims, for the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

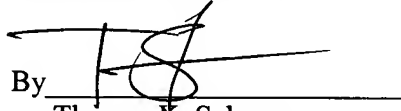
As discussed above, amended independent claims 1, 12, and 23 are patentable over Zhu and AAPA. Culler does not teach or suggest what Zhu and AAPA lack. Accordingly, amended independent claims 1, 12, and 23 are patentable over Zhu, AAPA, and Culler. Claims 10, 11, 23, 32, and 32 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 12, and 23 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/163001).

Dated: May 2, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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